

Colorado Division of Emergency Management

The Colorado Division of Emergency Management (CDEM) conducts a comprehensive emergency management program for the State of Colorado. Our goal is to help local communities reduce losses from natural and man-made disasters. These include floods, tornadoes, wildfires, and hazardous materials incidents. We accomplish this goal by providing local government with funding and technical help like planning, training, and exercise training. CDEM is part of the Department of Local Affairs (DoLA).

Our comprehensive emergency management program focuses on the four phases of emergency management:

- ☒ Preparedness
- ☒ Prevention
- ☒ Response
- ☒ Recovery

Preparedness - Planning for disasters

CDEM helps sixty-three counties and a number of cities prepare for disasters and emergencies. Some of CDEM's emergency **preparedness** activities are listed below.

- ☐ Analyzing hazards and their impacts.
- ☐ Training personnel.
- ☐ Developing and reviewing contingency plans.
- ☐ Exercising contingency plans.
- ☐ Educating the public about hazards.

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Prevention - Reduction of disaster losses

Prevention efforts reduce the cost and consequence of disaster. Disaster **prevention** or damage reduction efforts include some of the items in the following list.

- ☐ Assisting local governments in reviewing plans, zoning, and building codes.
- ☐ Promoting hazard awareness.
- ☐ Exercising warning and preparedness plans.
- ☐ Creating public awareness of hazards.
- ☐ Encouraging the purchase of flood insurance.
- ☐ Helping local communities with mitigation projects.

Response - Immediate disaster assistance

CDEM responds to emergencies as requested by local governments. Our mission is to develop and manage a disaster response coordination system. An average of 80 local emergencies require CDEM assistance every year. Some of our **response** activities are listed below.

- ☐ Coordinating the activities of 20 state agencies.
- ☐ Carrying out emergency procedures.
- ☐ Coordinating personnel, equipment, and resources.
- ☐ Activating the State Emergency Operations Plan and State Emergency Operations Center.

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- ☐ Activating Field Liaison Teams.
- ☐ Providing liaison with federal, state, local, and volunteer agencies.

Past Colorado disasters include:

Big Thompson flash flood
Estes Park/Lawn Lake Dam break and flood
Western Slope flooding and landslides
Sugarloaf/Black Tiger fire
Limon tornado
Storm King Mountain fire
Fort Collins flood of '97
Floods of '99
2000 Wildfires
2002 Wildfires
2003 Blizzard

Recovery - Long-term post disaster assistance

DoLA-CDEM manages and coordinates the State's disaster **recovery** efforts. Following is a list of some of CDEM's recovery activities.

- ☐ Conducting damage assessment and surveys.
- ☐ Coordinating recovery efforts with local, state, federal, and volunteer agencies.
- ☐ Supporting local governments and helping with filing for financial assistance.
- ☐ Publishing disaster recovery procedures, handbooks, and reports.
- ☐ Reviewing requests for recovery assistance.

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DEM develops and maintains a program of **Comprehensive Emergency Management** because:

- ☐ disasters release enormous amounts of energy in a short period of time;
- ☐ a response requires coordination of personnel and equipment not normal to the way governments conduct their day-to-day activities;
- ☐ financial support and pass-through funds are a constant necessity;
- ☐ local and state financial disaster related needs, and potential liability is very large;
- ☐ disasters usually cross political boundaries and exceed agency budgets;
- ☐ without coordinated planning, training, and exercise communities will not have the skills and knowledge needed to save lives and reduce losses; and
- ☐ disasters require a comprehensive approach.

Prevention

Floodplain Management
Dam Safety
Zoning
Building Codes
Protective Public Works
Hazard Awareness

Preparedness

Hazard Analysis
Plans
Training
Exercises
Public Education
Warning Systems

Response

On-Scene Control
Law Enforcement
Fire Service
Emergency Medical
Damage Assessment
Mutual Aid

Recovery

Disaster Declarations
Temporary Housing
Individual Family Assistance
Public Facility Restorations
Debris Clearance
Mitigation Planning

*When a local government's resources are depleted, they request state assistance.
When the state's resources are depleted, we request federal assistance.*



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Colorado Department of Local Affairs

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